

**MD-301
Harford County**

**ABINGDON LANDFILL
Abingdon, Maryland**

1960	Harford County Commissioners purchased the property for a municipal landfill.
1973	The Abingdon Landfill was closed. Five monitoring wells were installed by DHMH.
1982	HSWMA began annual monitoring of wells.
1989	HSWMA performed a Preliminary Assessment and recommended a high priority Site Inspection.
1991	EPA performed a <i>Site Inspection</i> and gave the site NFRAP status under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.
1999	Waste Management Administration conducted a <i>Site Survey</i> .

Site Location

The 24-acre Abingdon Landfill site is located off Old Philadelphia Road (Maryland Route 7) less than one mile southwest of Abingdon in Harford County, Maryland. An unnamed tributary to Otter Point Creek, approximately 150 feet south of the site, is the nearest surface water. The site is bounded by Route 7 on the north, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the south, and undeveloped land on the west and east. The geographic coordinates of the site are 39° 27' 30" North and 76° 16' 45" West.

Site History

Eva Koeing owned the Abingdon Landfill property before 1944, and Alexander and Nellie Sandford owned the site from 1944 to 1960. In July 1960, Mack and Florence Haynes purchased the property and purportedly operated a gravel quarry. On October 21, 1960, the Harford County Commissioners purchased the site.

From the time the site was purchased by the Harford County Commissioners, a major portion of the property was used as a municipal landfill that operated until 1973. The site was operated as a trench-type landfill, although direct burning is known to have

occurred. Refuse and burnt material were covered with earth on a weekly basis. The Harford County Department of Public Works (DPW) maintained offices and a workshop at the site, and stored road maintenance equipment and materials at the front portion of the fill.

Several times during the landfill history, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Harford County Health Department brought unsatisfactory conditions at the landfill to the attention of the Harford County DPW. These conditions included indiscriminate dumping of meat processing wastewaters and blood, raw sewage disposal, open burning, the use of automobile tires as fire-starting material, leachate production and seepage, and improper coverage.

In May 1973, DHMH advised DPW that in order to continue its operation, the landfill needed to be brought into compliance with applicable State regulations. Harford County chose instead to close the Abingdon Landfill, and did so in June 1973. Harford County covered the waste with two feet of soil to close the dump and planted trees to stabilize the fill and prevent erosion. After closure, the DHMH required the installation of five monitoring wells at the site; four were on site and one was off site. Results of the analysis of samples from the wells indicated the presence of inorganic contaminants in the groundwater at concentrations exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water.

Environmental Investigations

Between 1982 and circa 1989, the on-site wells were monitored annually by the DHMH and the Maryland Department of the Environment's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration (MDE/HSWMA). Organic compounds and metals were detected above the Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water.

In 1989, HSWMA performed a *Preliminary Assessment* of the Abingdon Landfill. The landfill was uncapped at that time, and seepage and severe erosion were apparent. The Preliminary Assessment report recommended a high priority Site Inspection for the site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a *Site Inspection* of the property in 1991. The results of the investigation indicated the presence of inorganic and organic contamination in the surface

water leachate samples collected from the site, which contained chromium, acetone, and various chlorinated solvents in the hundreds of parts per billion range. EPA did not detect any significant contamination in the groundwater or off-site surface water samples. EPA gave the Abingdon Landfill a No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) status.

The MDE's Waste Management Administration performed a *Site Survey* of the property in September 1999. The Waste Management Administration observed no evidence of leachate seeps at the landfill but concluded seeps might be buried under large piles of fill or might not be discharging due to the unusually dry period that preceded the site visit.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of NFRAP. The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Facility Contact

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